GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3823
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
SHARING OF RIVERS WATER
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are disputes on sharing of river water among India and neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to resolve such disputes amicably; and

(c) the mechanism available with the Government to monitor, implement and enforce national and international river water sharing agreements?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c) India has agreements with Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh in water resources sector. Indus Water Treaty 1960 was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 for utilization of waters of Indus river system comprising of Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. A permanent Indus Commission comprising of Commissioner from each India and Pakistan has been entrusted with responsibility of implementing of Indus Water Treaty. There is Treaty between HMG Nepal and Government of India concerning the integrated development of Mahakali river including Sarda barrage, Tanakpur barrage and Pancheswar project. An Indo Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources headed by Secretaries (Water Resources) of both the Governments and Joint Group of Experts looks after implementation of the Treaty. As regards Bangladesh, Indo- Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission headed by Minister (Water Resources) of both the countries is there to address all issues related to water resources development between India and Bangladesh. A Treaty was signed with Bangladesh in 1996 regarding sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka, for which a Joint Committee is there to look after the implementation of the Treaty. A Joint Committee of Experts headed by Secretary of Water Resources of the two Governments has been constituted to work out an arrangement for long term/permanent sharing of the waters of Teesta and other six common areas.

As regards national river water sharing agreements there is no mechanism available with the Central Government to monitor, implement and enforce the same. However, with regard to tribunal awards, Inter-State River Water Dispute Act 1956 (as amended from time to time) specifies that central Government may frame scheme or schemes thereby provision may be made for all matters necessary to give effect to the decision of the tribunal.